



DRAFT MINUTES

21st Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, 16 November 2023 at 16h00

NCE Boardroom

Present: Charles Loots – Chairperson (CL), Chris Brown (CB), Mendes Vinte (MV), Malan Lindeque (ML)

Apologies: Stephan Bezuidenhout (SB), Itaveleni Mupewa (IM)

Agenda item	Discussion	Decision	Action Points
1. Welcome by Chairman	The chairperson welcomed all present.		
2. Attendance and apologies	Stephan Bezuidenhout Itaveleni Mupewa	Quorum present.	
3. Approval of Agenda	Approved	Agenda adopted with no additions.	
4. Minutes of 20th Meeting: 4.1 Correctness 4.2 Matters arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No corrections. • Landscape Association Meeting 	<p>Minutes approved with no corrections.</p> <p>Postponed due to time constraints. It may be worthwhile to bring individuals from South Africa to do presentations on <i>inter alia</i>, biodiversity and landscape mapping.</p>	

<p>5. Eight Programme Areas</p>	<p>1. Membership support Membership currently stands at 76.</p> <p>2. National Facilitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uranium in Kalahari basin • “Green” hydrogen • CBNRM Programme 	<p>Two Full Members approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Namibian Beekeeping Association • Twin Hills Trust (discussed at the previous meeting but formally approved at this meeting) <p>A clearance certificate was issued by the office of the Environmental Commissioner. Farmers instituted legal action against the Russian company and the EIA practitioner. The NCE assisted with legal costs.</p> <p>This is currently at a pre-feasibility stage but still a concern.</p> <p>There is a lack of proactive response to failures and programme evolution. Conservancy members are becoming disinterested and disillusioned.</p> <p>The NCE, together with key players such as Brian Child, Senior officials within government and NGOs initiated a process, conducting livelihoods, governance, and wildlife economy surveys in the Kunene Region. In February 2024 these activities will be done in Caprivi. Recommendations based on the results that were shared from the surveys included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discontinue the parallel NACSO - Ministry “leadership” and establish one national Steering body. • . • Move away from the concept that CBNRM is a conservation initiative. It is not. It is a wildlife economy and 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad-based Economic Empowerment. <p>3. Advocacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socioeconomic update <p>4. Young Namibian Training and Mentorship - Bursaries 2023/2024</p>	<p>livelihoods initiative that, if done right, will yield significant conservation benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on improving the wildlife economy and governance. • Realign institutional mechanisms in conservancies based on scale of management. <p>A website has been established and includes an alert mechanism, available to everyone, with all conservancy information, government gazettes and the Constitution. It is important to note that immediate change and intervention is needed.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>A successful Alumni event was held at Arebbusch with over 70 attendees. Over 280 bursary applications have been received for the 2023/24 academic year.</p> <p>The magazines are currently being printed.</p> <p>JRS, a US based Foundation, through a grant is aiding with strengthening the plant systems on demic and endemic plants. A new Atlas on Dragonflies is in the process of being compiled.</p>	
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	<p>5. Environmental Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Magazine • Plant atlas and information system • EIA Tracker 	<p>The NCE had a meeting with the office of the Environmental Commissioner and senior staff on how to make his work more transparent. All the EIA reports are now on the new EIA App. For the past 4 years, the EIA's that were taken down from the ministry's website were posted on the EIS.</p> <p>The Wildlife society has put an environmental tracker in place, which is a GIS based system, map of the country with all EIAs.</p> <p>The tourism sector will be employing someone full-time to follow up on every EIA within conservancies including scoping reports and background information.</p> <p>This is supported by 12 private sector companies, of which FENATA made available N\$350 000 as contingency funding.</p> <p>Further appropriate documents to be compiled include the 'Rights of Landowners and Custodians', and an 'Environmental Rights for all Namibians' document, setup in collaboration with NCE, LAC, ELNN, Office of the Ombudsman, and an invitation extended to the Ministry.</p> <p>A list of all grants supported since 2016 was presented and accepted.</p>	<p>Admin to send the EIA tracker link to all.</p>
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	6.Grants making		The Giraffe translocation grant to be added to the list.
6. Finances			
6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCE Draft Financial report as at 30 September 2023. 	Accepted.	
6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCE Projects Draft Financial report as at 30 September 2023. 	Accepted.	
8. Any other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dimension Stone Mining 	<p>Dimension stone miners are resistant to commit to any obligations under the Environmental Rehabilitation Programme. These mines have high activity with low value.</p> <p>A suggestion was made for NCE to hold the funds, or in a ring-fenced, separate account to create assurance that rehab obligations will be met.</p> <p>Key players within the NCE or membership base to be identified that can raise this issue, and raise awareness through <i>inter alia</i> radio, television, blogs, and newspaper articles. It was suggested that a strategic assessment of the economics of dimension mining be done, and a qualified team be assembled to address this issue.</p> <p>It was however pointed out that some of these mining sites may virtually not be able to be rehabilitated.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Defence Fund • EAPAN • Proposal to the Ministry 	<p>A few meetings took place, with LAC, and Willem Odendaal. It was suggested that the South African fund set up an office in Namibia.</p> <p>A legal training to be conducted for people within the rural areas.</p> <p>Poverty is the biggest threat in Namibia. CB, under the NCE submitted a proposal with the below suggestions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Setting up an employment council to actively pursue job creation. 2. Basic income grant, under the guidance of the Ministry of Finance. This grant includes social support through cash grants for individuals not registered as taxpayers, 18 and above year old but below pension age. This proposal includes a suggestion that all grants be managed under one national database. 	<p>ML to assist in contacting the US organization for funding.</p> <p>Admin to contact EAPAN Exco.</p>
<p>9. Next Meeting</p>	<p>TBC</p>		

C Loots
Chairperson

C Brown
Chief Executive Officer